

Claims

1. (Previously presented) A smart card comprising:  
a key, associated with a household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content at the household that is associated with the household; and  
a memory unit, the memory unit including,  
a user-specific information storage section to store user preferences, and  
a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.
2. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory unit comprises a nonvolatile memory.
3. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the data comprises electronic money.
4. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 3, wherein the smart card can be used to encrypt and decrypt media content only if at least a threshold amount of electronic money is stored on the smart card.
5. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the smart card corresponds to a particular category of media content and is used to encrypt and decrypt only that particular category of media content.

6. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 5, wherein one of the categories of media content comprises family-oriented media content and another of the categories of media content comprises adult-oriented media content.

7. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory unit further includes a rating associated with the smart card that is used to compare the rating with a rating corresponding to the media content and determine, based on the comparison, whether to allow access to the media content.

8. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the smart card is used to limit where rendering of the media content can occur.

9. (Previously presented) A smart card comprising:  
a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household and that is to be rendered at the one particular household, but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households; and  
a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

10. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that encrypts media content, an indication of whether to encrypt the media content based on data stored in the data storage section.

11. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that decrypts media content, an indication of whether to decrypt the media content based on data stored in the data storage section.
12. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a processor to execute instructions to encrypt and decrypt the media content.
13. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 9, wherein the data storage section is maintained in a nonvolatile memory.
14. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a user-specific information storage section to store user preferences.
15. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 9, wherein the data in the data storage section comprises electronic money.
16. (Previously presented) A method of encrypting media content received at a user's home from a programming source, the method comprising:  
    checking, at the user's home, whether a smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content; and  
    encrypting, at the user's home, the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content.

17. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising determining that the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content if at least a threshold amount of electronic money is available on the smart card.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising determining that the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content only if data is stored on the smart card that is expected to be of value to a user.

19. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising: checking whether the smart card is authorized to decrypt media content; and

decrypting the media content only if the smart card is authorized to decrypt the media content.

20. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 16.

21. (Previously presented) A method of decrypting media content, the method comprising:

checking whether a portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content, wherein the portable integrated circuit device stores a decryption key and additional data;

determining that the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content only if data other than electronic money is stored as the additional data on the portable integrated circuit device, wherein the data is expected to be of value to a user, and wherein the data is not used to decrypt the media content; and

decrypting the media content only if the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content.

22. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising determining that the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content if at least a threshold amount of electronic money is available on the portable integrated circuit device.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

checking whether the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to encrypt media content; and

encrypting the media content only if the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to encrypt the media content.

25. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 21.

26. (Previously presented) A system comprising:  
a plurality of smart cards, each to be used for encrypting different categories of multimedia presentations; and  
an encryption module coupled to receive a multimedia presentation and encrypt, at the user's home, the multimedia presentation based on a key maintained on one of the plurality of smart cards.

27. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 26, further comprising a decoding module, coupled to receive the encrypted multimedia presentation, decrypt the encrypted multimedia presentation, decode the decrypted multimedia presentation, and transmit the decoded multimedia presentation to a rendering module.

28. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 26, wherein one of the categories of multimedia presentations comprises family-oriented media content and another of the categories of multimedia presentations comprises adult-oriented media content.

29. (Previously presented) A method of allowing parental control over media content, the method comprising:

receiving, at a household, media content;  
encrypting, at the household, the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card, wherein the household identifier is associated with one household; and  
requiring the smart card to be present to decrypt and render the media content.

30. (Original) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein the requiring comprises requiring the smart card to be inserted into a smart card reader coupled to a computing device that is decrypting the media content.

31. (Original) A method as recited in claim 29, further comprising using a plurality of different smart cards to encrypt and decrypt media content, each of the plurality of smart cards corresponding to a different category of media content.

32. (Original) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein one of the categories of media content comprises family-oriented media content and another of the categories of media content comprises adult-oriented media content.

33. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 29.

34. (Previously presented) A method of allowing parental control over media content, the method comprising:

comparing a rating corresponding to the media content to a rating associated with a smart card; and

allowing access to the media content if the rating corresponding to the media content does not exceed the rating associated with the smart card, wherein a plurality of ratings do not exceed the rating associated with the smart card, and wherein the allowing access comprises allowing the media content to be encrypted, at a user's home, for subsequent processing.

35. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the comparing comprises comparing the rating corresponding to the media content to the rating associated with the smart card as stored on the smart card.

36. (Original) A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the allowing access comprises allowing the media content to be decrypted for rendering.

37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously presented) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by a computing device, causes the computing device to perform acts including:

receiving, at a household, media content;

controlling, at the household, encryption of the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card; and

maintaining user preferences information on the smart card, the user preferences information being available only when the smart card is coupled to the computing device.

39. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 38, wherein the smart card is coupled to the computing device when the smart card is inserted into a smart card reader that is coupled to the computing device.

40. (Previously presented) A smart card comprising:

a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with the one particular household at the one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households; and

a user-specific information storage section to store user preferences.

41. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that encrypts media content, the user preferences stored in the user-specific information storage section.

42. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a processor to manage the user-specific information storage section.

43. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 40, wherein the user-specific information storage section is maintained in a nonvolatile memory.

44. (Original) A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

45. (Previously presented) A method comprising:  
maintaining, on an integrated circuit card, information regarding a user's preferences corresponding to media content; and  
maintaining, on the integrated circuit card, a key to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with one particular household at the one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households.

46. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 45.

47. (Canceled).

48. (Canceled).

49. (Canceled).

50. (Previously presented) A method of identifying boundaries of a network of devices, the method comprising:

encrypting, at a single house, media content based on an identifier corresponding to a plurality of smart cards; and

limiting rendering of the media content to a network of devices to which the plurality of smart cards are coupled, wherein the network of devices is maintained within the single house.

51. (Canceled).

52. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 50, wherein the network devices include devices to receive media content and devices to render media content.

53. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 50, wherein one of the plurality of smart cards is coupled to a device when the smart card is inserted into a smart card reader coupled to the device.

54. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 50, wherein the plurality of smart cards can be moved to different devices to alter the boundaries of the network.

55. (Previously presented) A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the user preferences comprise one or more channels preferred by the user.

56. (Previously presented) A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the user preferences comprise one or more viewing times preferred by the user.

57. (Previously presented) A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the user preferences comprise one or more types of content preferred by the user.